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Dr. Nansen's account of the Arctic Regions was written, possibly, during his long seclusion in the *Fram*, and he has not found time since his return to Norway to make himself acquainted with the work of other explorers. He has youth on his side, however, and may hope, with diligence and the cultivation of a right spirit, to arrive at a knowledge of several things which are now dark to him.

Il Ce-Kiang, Studio Geografico-Economico del Dott. Mario Carli. Roma, Forzani e C., Tipografi del Senato, 1899.

Dr. Carli devotes seventy pages of his book to an Historical Introduction on the relations of foreign States with the Chinese Empire in modern times. This introduction is well written and correct from the general European, which is for the most part the English, point of view. We are told on page 9 that

The first English man-of-war arrived at Macao in 1742, and the captain resolved not to leave China till he was allowed to supply himself with necessaries. . . . His firmness had a splendid result, and he showed that only by striking them with terror can anything be obtained from the authorities of the Celestial Empire.

So with the Opium War. Doctor Carli states fairly the reasons which moved Taou-Kwang to prohibit the importation of the drug, but his conclusion reads like an extract from the London *Times*:

It would not be in conformity with the truth to admit, as many have done, that the exclusive purpose of the war on the part of England was, to open by force of arms a wide market for the great production of Indian opium. We are much more disposed to affirm that there was involved a question of principle and of general utility.

In whatever language it may be written, rhetoric of this kind is always out of place. It deceives nobody; not even the writer.

Che-Kiang is the smallest of the eighteen provinces of China. It lies between $31^{\circ} 16'$ and $27^{\circ} 17'$ N. Lat., and has an area of 37,000 square miles. Its capital is Hangchau, the southern terminus of the Grand Canal, and one of the ports opened to foreign commerce by the treaty of 1895 with Japan. Two of the so-called Treaty Ports, Ningpo and Wenchau, are also in this province, which was formerly one of the richest in the empire, with a population of 30,000,000. It suffered greatly during the Taiping rebellion, and its present population is estimated at 12,000,000.

The soil is fertile and well watered by rivers which are nearly all navigable. The minerals are coal, iron and salt, and there are great quarries of building-stone near Ningpo.

The bay of Sanmun (or in its Italian form, San-Men), which the Chinese Government is asked to lease to Italy as a strong point

to have and to hold, opens on the Eastern Sea, in 29° N. Lat., in an admirable position for commerce and for the development of civilisation, as understood by the Western nations.

Dr. Carli has brought together and arranged with method and care all the available information on the rich province, which will undoubtedly pass before long under the control of Italy.

He has added a map of Che-Kiang on a scale of 1:1,500,000, with an inset map of Sanmun Bay, on a scale of 1:500,000.

His book is well printed on good paper, with but a few errors in foreign names, such as *Welles William* for S. Wells Williams, *Chinese Reportery* for Chinese Repository, and, most curious of all when the fame of the man is remembered, *Peter Gordon* for Charles George Gordon.